**College Board Affinity Network**

**Washington State Team**

**C3: Communities Collaborating and Communicating**

**Washington Cohort: Policy**

**Executive Summary**

The findings presented by Washington’s three work groups, ELA, Mathematics, and Policy summarize the Affinity Network’s efforts to date, with all groups recognizing that the work has only just begun. As public schools implement the Standards and prepare to demonstrate progress through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia, much research and work remains. The relationships and communities of learners built and strengthened through the Affinity Network seek to strengthen the bonds by continuing the systematic, systemic approach to college and career readiness through continued K-20 collaboration. The outcomes of the work done by more than 100 participants, K-12 teachers and administrators, faculty and administrators from two-year and four-year colleges and universities, in urban and rural areas, has significance for other institutions and states.

* While the new Common Core State Standards provide a starting point, we now see that a much deeper, broader and more robust collaboration is essential to achieving alignment between high school graduation and college entrance requirements.
* A broader base of faculty (across all disciplines) will need to be engaged in standards adoption.
* While we intend to continue to strengthen our focus on preparing students for STEM majors, it is apparent that a focus on SWIRL, at much higher levels than currently exists, is key to the success of our region as well.
* New standards and new assessments will make no difference UNLESS we work together to develop aligned curriculum and instruction to enact the standards.
* Results of the new K-12 assessments must be used by all partners to improve practice.
* Data makes the case that postsecondary education rethinks approaches to remediation – including early intervention and targeted assistance.

Great appreciation is extended to the Community Colleges of Spokane district, Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane Community College, Spokane Public Schools, Eastern Washington University, and Washington State University participants for their communication, collaboration, and open sharing of innovative ideas.

The White Paper is available online at <http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/About-CCS/Administration-(1)/AffinityNetwork/Docs/Affinitywhitepaper.aspx>